Mr. A. B. Salem.—Don't you give free licenses to these?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—That means everybody can do it.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—It does not make any difference so for as the tappers are concerned. I request the Council not to accept the resolution.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—On this assurance I withdraw. On the assurance given by the Government, I beg to withdraw.

The motion was withdrawn with the leave of the House.

(2) Staff Selection Board.

President.—Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja's resolution.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The resolution runs thus: "This Council recommends that a Staff Selection Board be appointed with powers a kin to those of the Public Service Commission in British India" It was your predecessor who said when he was about to take leave of this House that in Cochin, to a large extent, by politics it is meant only conferment of a few appointments.

"It is nothing but truth, pure and simple, when I say that there is a rush of applicants when a vacancy arises; one amongst them is chosen with the result that a number of persons goes discontented and the Diwan becomes a maligned officer in their estimation. As regards the one actually appointed, he has no word of thanks to the Diwan, and he thinks it is his intrinsic merit that secured the place for him and he is in no way indebted to the Diwan". Of course, appointment is a matter which gives some trouble and anxiety to the Government and to the officers concerned. There are some who advocate that appointments should be made on a communal basis, calculated on the number of population of each of the various communities in the State. These are others who advocate that appointments should be in proportion to the educated number in each community. These are the two advocates of communalism in the matter of appointments. There were certain features in the past, which I do not propose to elaborate now, which are not very desirable in the matter of appointments. These features have been voiced in this House on several occasions and several questions, showing relationship and kindred affinities of the appointees with those who appoint, have been put. It is only fair that the Government should give no room to say, in particular, that relations are favoured and unqualified men are put in. Room for such comments should be avoided. It is only to avoid such unpleasant features that I propose that a Staff Selection Board should be appointed. The powers of the Board may be like those given to the Public Service Commission in British India. So far as British India is concerned, with regard to communal claim for preference, the Government have already fixed an order in which appointments have to be made in some of the departments in the

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Madras Presidency. Candidates will be placed by the Madras Public Service Commission on the results of a competitive examination in the group of offices they desire to seek employment. Lists of successful candidates will be published in the Gazette and the appointing authority is to select from this list. There the arrangement was made after an exhaustive inquiry on the subject. If some satisfactory arrangement is made here, there will not be any trouble, so far as this matter is concerned, and everybody will be given a place in the services of the State.

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—I beg to second it.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I beg to oppose it. In my opinion the mover has not made out sufficient reason why the present system should be upset and a committee be appointed hereafter for making appointments. In my opinion, such a committee would do more evil than real good. As a matter of fact, as in British India, we have not got here many appointments to be made by each department. There, the area is wide and you find at least 200 appointments, to say the least, being made from day to day. Here, Sir, the scope is so limited and the average appointments will not be more than two or three a day at the best. When the numebr of appointments is so small in the State, it is quite possible for the Head of the Administration to look into the various aspects of the question and appoint deserving men without giving rise to any grievance to any of the communities.

As such, I really could not understand the motive with which the mover has brought such a question before this House at this juncture. A committee of two or three people, instead of the Diwan, would work more evil than good. It may be difficult to please them all either on the point of efficiency or on the point of communal representation. I, therefore, strongly oppose this measure and request the Government to make no alteration what so ever. This power ought to be vested in the Head of the central administration, I mean the Diwan, and in him *alone*.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I also rise to oppose this motion. If we are to appoint a Staff Selection Board the very first question that will arise would be who are to be the members in the Board. Before we settle that question the whole committee will be dissolved. Ezhuvas would say that they want to be on the Board, Muhammadans will say that they want to be on the board and similarly Christians and so on. They will all claim and rightly too. I don't blame them for doing so.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—Warriar.

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Mr. M. K. Raman.—Very well, Warriar also. So the very question of the constitution of this Staff Selection Board will be left undone. It may have its own advantages. But in a State like Cochin where we have so much of clashing communal interest, to have a Staff Selection Board, and that Board satisfactory to work, is impossible. The present complaints will only increase. In our State, the whole thing will depend upon the attitude of the Head of the Administration. If the people suspect that there are motives for certain acts they will make a hue and cry. On the other hand, if the appointments are made in the proper spirit, I do not think there will be any complaints in these matters. Our people are sufficiently educated and shrewed to find out the real nature of a particular appointment and as long as you have no card to play and you want to do justice to all, no one will say even a whisper. Complaints there were, probably there were reasons for complaints also. I don't think there is any reason or necessity for a Board now. I think it will be a practical impossibility also to have a Staff Selection Board, because such a Board will not satisfy all.

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—I also oppose this resolution. My only reason is this. We have been waiting for an impartial administrator, who would give us our share of the representation in the service and we have got one now. It is an opportune time for us, the unrepresented communities, to get our proper and due share of representation in the service. I oppose this resolution. If this is carried, the Head of the Administration will only be handicapped in doing us justice. He will have to give due regard to the representation made by the members of the Board.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The Government do not think it necessary to appoint a Staff Selection Board (*Hear, hear.*) Cochin is a small State and as remarked by the Hon'ble Member for Chalakkudi, there are only a few appointments to be made. Such appointments come only after long intervals. As also rightly remarked by the Member for Ezhavas, it may be difficult to constitute a committee satisfactory to all. Questions may arise as to who should be selected for the place. An Ezhuva may say that he is the proper candidate; a Hindu may say that he is the proper candidate. It is not explained to the Council what the function of the Staff Selection Board is to be; whether they should make representations in all appointments, including appointments of peons and clerks on Rs. 25—40 or only in the matter of appointments in the higher grades. It is also not explained whether they are to be honorary workers, or whether they are to be paid; if they are to be paid, I say, it will be more an expensive ornament than a useful thing. It would

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be better, it seems to me, better for the safety of all concerned, to leave the appointments in the hands of persons who are responsible to the Government and also to the people. When Heads of Departments make appointments they have to submit statements to the Government. Those statements are scrutinised by the Diwan, who is the administrative head, and if any corrections have to be made, they are made. They are also subjected to criticism in this Council. Questions are asked why such and such men are preferred to such and such individuals and we have to explain our position. With all this responsibility resting on the Government servants, it seems to me that it would be better that these appointments are left in their hands instead of being left to a body who may not feel the same sense of responsibility. And especially when the number of appointments to be made is very small and seeing that the Departmental Heads and also the Head of the Administration may know the names of all the likely candidates for higher appointments there will not be much mistakes. If there happens to be any, it is easily corrected also.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know from the Hon'ble the Secretary whether the quarterly returns duly come now?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I also rise to oppose this resolution. "Of course, to the Diwan of the State nothing gives greater anxiety and worry than the question of choosing the right man for the right place and I do not know whether there will be any sensational topic in the administration of Cochin, if the question of appointments is shelved to the background. The politics of Cochin is, I am sorry to note, to a large extent, centred in the question of conferment of appointments on particular individuals and, as sure as anything, the Diwan cannot but be found fault with for making appointments in a particuler manner." This was a statement made by the Diwan as he prorogued the Council last time. This is a question which I don't think will give any anxiety at present. Why should there be any anxiety? The unrepresented classes are known—the members of the unrepresented classes who are competent for appointments are known—in a State which is less than a Taluk in extent compared with other parts. There can be no reasonable anxiety unless there is some communalism playing. That is why I said, Sir, yesterday that all nepotism will now go away, and there is no necessity for a Staff Selection Board. Now what is the move? A Staff Selection Board! Members of what communities are to go upon it? Only the strongest communities can go. Because, that is so. The weaker always goes to the wall. It is always better for the weaker communities, for the communities who are back-

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ward or who have not come forward enough, to rely upon one individual, one honest good individual rather than to have half a dozen people whose wires are pulled by half a dozen or more from behind. That is the position in Cochin. That is the difficulty. We are conscious that the same difficulty will not be there for some time to come in Cochin and also this Staff Selection Board is unnecessary at this juncture.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—One word. I am only sorry that I have been misinterpreted. It has never been my intention to see that unrepresented communities should not get any appointments. I would have been very glad if the Member for Ezhuvas South or the Member for the Jews was a Member of the Board, which would be constituted, if this resolution is carried by this House. It was also tried to make out that I was trying to take away the powers from the Diwan. True it was not put in such a blunt way. That has been the trend of the argument. I know, as much as anybody else, that the Diwan belongs to a service, which is noted for its impartiality and sense of justice and I can vouchsafe, although it is too early to form any opinion, that after his advent there has been an awakening of life in the tone of the administration. Every community is feeling that it will get its due share in the administration. My object is not to embarass the Diwan but to help him by telling him who is who. There may be an appeal on the selection of the committee to the Diwan. The Diwan, may not know intimately all in the locality. The Staff Selection Board is only as a sort of help in the matter of the selection of candicates. If motive is attributed to me, I may say I am not standing personally to gain by this Board. You know I belong to a community which is never represented at all in the service of the State. I have never put forward any claim till this moment for appointments for land-holders. From the very beginning I have been advocating, every community should be given appointment provided there are proper qualifications for the candidates. That has been my attitude in the Council. An identical resolution by the Member for Kunnamkulam was carried in this Council. With these words I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion which is found objectionable under changed circumstances.

The resolution was withdrawn with leave of the House.

(3.) Separation of the Panchayat Department.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—"This Council recommends to the Government that the Panchayat Department may be separated from the Agricultural and placed in charge of an officer responsible solely for the same."

Sir, as the subject matter of the resolution was rather discussed in detail yesterday and as we had the assurance of the

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